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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 10 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in order to draw your attention to the latest terrorist attacks perpetrated against the citizens of Israel.

On Monday evening, 7 July, at approximately 9 p.m. (local time), a suicide bomber perpetrated an attack in the home of a family in the community of Kfar Yavetz, located in the Sharon area in central Israel. Mazal Afari, aged 65, of Kfar Yavetz, and a mother of eight, was killed when the force of the explosion caused the roof of her house to collapse. Three of her grandchildren were also wounded in the blast. The terrorist organization Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack.

On Monday 30 June, a terrorist perpetrated a deadly roadside attack against a Bulgarian labourer. Krastyu Radkov, aged 46, was shot in the head and killed while working on road repairs on the Yabed bypass. The terrorist organization Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades of Fatah claimed responsibility for the attack.

In addition to these two attacks, there have been repeated incidents of shooting and mortar fire against Israeli communities. Despite an improvement in the security atmosphere, Israeli security forces are still compelled to operate in order to thwart numerous attacks or "ticking bombs", that have been planned in recent weeks.

In addition, there is clear evidence that the terrorist organization Hamas is continuing to manufacture Qassam rockets which have been used for indiscriminate fire against Israeli population centres and that Palestinian terrorist organizations are seeking to take advantage of present conditions in order to reconstitute and reinforce their terrorist infrastructure.

Despite some hopeful signs for a renewal of the peace process, these latest attacks and the continuing threat posed by Palestinian terrorist organizations such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Fatah's Al-Aqsa Brigades, demonstrate the absolute necessity for the Palestinian leadership to fulfil its obligations to completely uproot the terrorist infrastructure, including taking real, practical steps to arrest terrorists,

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to confiscate illegal weapons, and to eliminate incitement. Without this, Palestinian and Israeli lives will continue to be endangered, and the prospects for progress towards a peaceful settlement for both peoples are doomed to failure.

Israel calls upon the international community to reaffirm its absolute rejection of terrorist tactics, to accept nothing less than the complete dismantling of terrorist organizations, and to use its authority to compel all regimes that sponsor terrorism in the region to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with international law and Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1373 (2001).

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2000, which document the criminal terrorist activity for which the terrorists and their supporters must be held fully accountable.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 160 and 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Permanent Representative